Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A pivot assembly for a magnetic disk storage comprising:

an actuator block having an axial bore;

a fixed shaft ~~and~~;

a pair of ball bearings mounted thereon to support ~~an~~ the actuator block, each of the pair of ball bearings having:

an outer ring having outer and inner peripheral surfaces, the inner peripheral surface having an annular groove at each edge,

an inner ring that directly engages the fixed shaft, and

a pair of shields engaging the outer and inner rings, each shield disposed within the annular groove at said each edge; and

an annular spacer disposed between the pair of ball bearings, the annular spacer having an inner axially-extending annular projection and an outer end face, the annular projection having an outer rim surface, wherein ~~each inner ring of the pair of ball bearings is fixed directly to the fixed shaft and~~ the pair of ball bearings is fitted directly into ~~an~~ the axial bore of the actuator block, the outer peripheral surface of the outer ring directly engages the actuator block, the outer end face is adjacent to the outer peripheral surface of the outer ring, and the outer rim surface of the annular projection is adjacent to the inner peripheral surface of the outer ring.

2. (Currently Amended) A pivot assembly for a magnetic disk storage comprising:

an actuator block having an axial bore;

a fixed shaft ~~and~~;

a pair of ball bearings mounted thereon to support ~~an~~ the actuator block, , each of the pair of ball bearings having:

an outer ring having outer and inner peripheral surfaces, the inner peripheral surface having an annular groove at each edge,

an inner ring that directly engages the fixed shaft, and

a pair of shields engaging the outer and inner rings, each shield disposed within the annular groove at said each edge; and

an annular spacer disposed between the pair of ball bearings, the annular spacer having an inner axially-extending annular projection, the annular projection having an outer rim surface, wherein ~~each inner ring of the pair of ball bearings is fixed directly to the fixed shaft,~~ each of the ~~pair of ball bearings is provided with an~~ outer ~~ring having~~ rings has an outer ring thickness increased by a sleeve thickness of a sleeve conventionally interposed between ~~a~~ the pair of ball bearings and ~~an~~ the actuator block, and the pair of ball bearings is fitted directly into ~~an~~ the axial bore of the actuator block, the outer peripheral surface of the outer ring directly engages the actuator block, the outer end face is adjacent to the outer peripheral surface of the outer ring, and the outer rim surface of the annular projection is adjacent to the inner peripheral surface of the outer ring.

3. (Currently Amended) The pivot assembly according to claim 1, wherein ~~a spacer is interposed between said pair of ball bearings~~ the annular projection engages the shield.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A pivot assembly ~~according to claim 1~~ for a magnetic disk storage comprising:

an actuator block having an axial bore;

a fixed shaft;

a pair of ball bearings mounted thereon to support the actuator block, each of the pair of ball bearings having:

an outer ring having outer and inner peripheral surfaces, the inner peripheral surface having an annular groove at an outer edge of the pair of ball bearings,

an inner ring that directly engages the fixed shaft, and

a shield engaging the outer and inner rings and disposed within the annular groove; and

a pair of annular extensions disposed on the outer peripheral surface of the outer ring of said each of the pair of ball bearings, wherein ~~each of~~ said pair of ball bearings ~~has an extension formed on one side of an outer ring thereof~~ and the pair of annular extensions are fitted into the axial bore of the actuator block, and said pair of ball bearings are mounted onto said fixed shaft with said extensions abutted against each other.

5. (Currently Amended) The pivot assembly according to claim 2, wherein ~~a spacer is interposed between said pair of ball bearings~~ the annular projection engages the shield.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)